

THE WILSON BULLETIN

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EDITORIAL

THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING of the Wilson Ornithological Club will be held at Pittsburg, Pa., on Friday and Saturday, December 28 and 29, 1934, in conjunction with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Our meetings will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Carnegie Museum. Hotel Headquarters will be at the Fort Pitt Hotel. The Local Committee consists of Messrs. W. E. Clyde Todd, *Chairman*, Bayard H. Christy, Sidney Eastwood, Charles Agostini, J. Warren Jacobs (Waynesburg), and John W. Handlan (Wheeling, W. Va.). Such a splendid committee is an assurance that nothing will be left undone locally to make a successful meeting. We trust that our members will do their part to make a good meeting by attending it. The program will begin on Friday morning. The dinner will be held on Friday evening, in the University Club, in connection with the American Society of Zoologists. W. O. C. members and their friends will be seated together. An informal reception and smoker will be held in the Laboratory of Ornithology of the Museum on Saturday evening, between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 P. M., when an opportunity will be had to examine the study collection of birds. A Wilsoniana Exhibit will be a feature of this meeting, and is being arranged for by the Local Committee. Contributions to this Exhibit are solicited. Since the first session convenes so short a time before the luncheon and dinner the Local Committee is requesting that attending members send word to the Chairman (Mr. Todd, at the Carnegie Museum) a few days in advance of their arrival; otherwise the Committee will be very seriously handicapped in making arrangements.

Railroad Rates. There will be favorable railroad rates in effect for attendance at this meeting. Practically all railroads have granted a rate of one and a third fare for a round trip ticket from all points to Pittsburgh, on the Certificate Plan. Purchase a first-class *one-way* ticket to Pittsburgh, being sure to get a certificate receipt from the Agent endorsed, "For the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Associated Societies". Upon arrival in Pittsburgh this certificate must be deposited at the Association Headquarters for validation. It must be reclaimed by the owner before purchasing the return ticket, which may then be purchased for one-third of the one-way fare. We understand that there will be reductions also in the Pullman fares. Consult your ticket agent early on all these points in order to give him time to verify any uncertain matters.

Secretary Hicks has been at work on the program for many weeks, and there is assurance of a program to justify your going to inconvenience, if necessary, to

attend. Besides our own meeting the week following will be occupied by the meetings of many other societies in all the sciences—usually from thirty to forty scientific societies have from one to three days of programs of papers showing the advances during the year in all scientific fields. Those who have never visited Pittsburgh should allow some time for visiting a few of the great industrial plants which have made that city famous and rich.

THE RECENT CHICAGO MEETING of the American Ornithologists' Union seemed to be a marked success in such important matters as attendance and program. The program listed sixty titles, most of which were presented. There were a number of exceptionally interesting and important field studies. We will not attempt to name any of these, for we were unable to hear all, owing to the fact that two sessions were held concurrently on Wednesday.

Not listed on the program at all was an informal talk on Wednesday by Mr. Jay N. Darling, Chief of the U. S. Bureau of Biological Survey. Mr. Darling stated that the two present objectives of the Survey were life history studies and the restoration of environment. He remarked that he left to his staff the job of promoting the life history studies, while he undertook the work of promoting restoration of environment, especially for the purposes of water fowl conservation.

Mr. Darling also referred to the recent reorganization* of the Survey for the purpose of more effectively carrying on the work. Under the new plan much of the work, especially research, is to be organized on a regional basis. For instance, there will be a regional headquarters in the Rocky Mountain area, another in the Great Plains area, the Great Lakes area, etc. The operation of the Survey under the new plan will be watched with much interest by many. Only a trial can determine success or failure. It is hoped that the Survey will put out a circular showing in detail what the new plan is, and what its objectives are. We do further hope that by the new arrangement more time will be found for investigation—that the resources of the Survey will not be exhausted in law enforcement and administrative effort; and that funds may be available for the publication of the results of the researches.

The fiasco of the 1934 water fowl hunting regulations was explained by Mr. Darling as due to the apathy of the conservationists. He said that when hunting enthusiasts outnumber the conservationists 50 to 1 at the public hearings on the regulations there can be only one outcome. While this is probably true, it excuses neither those who wish to secure excessive killing privileges nor those who are charged with the protection of the game supply. It is a lamentable fact that conservationists are poorly organized. Yet we understand that the one great institution in the country into which conservationists have poured their funds was not represented at the June hearings on the water fowl hunting regulations.

**Science* (for Oct. 5, 1934, p. 308) states that the U. S. Biological Survey has now been reorganized into the following six divisions: 1) Division of Administration, 2) Division of Public Relations, 3) Division of Wild Life Research, 4) Division of Game Management, 5) Division of Land Acquisition, and 6) Division of Migratory Water Fowl Program. It is here stated that the work of the former Division of Biological Investigations is to be reorganized on some sort of a regional plan, making contact where possible with universities and similar institutions.